

Message Text

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67

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE (FAS)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, GW

SUBJECT: QUALITY PROBLEMS WITH U. S. GRAINS

1. AT OUR TRADITIONAL GREEN WEEK LUNCHEON FOR MINISTER ERTL, THE PROBLEM OF U. S. GRAIN QUALITY WAS BROUGHT UP BY GERMANY'S LEADING GRAIN IMPORTER, ALFRED C. TOEPFER, IN THE PRESENCE OF MINAG OFFICIALS. HE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE U. S. IMAGE AS A SUPPLIER OF GRAINS HAS SUFFERED A SERIOUS SETBACK AND THAT THE U. S. COMPETITIVE POSITION IN THE WORLD MARKET COULD SUFFER AS A CONSEQUENCE.

2. TWO MAJOR CONCERNS WERE SHORTWEIGHTING AND THAT SHIPS TRANSPORTING CORN AND SOYBEANS FROM GULF PORTS WERE NOT ADEQUATELY CLEANED PRIOR TO LOADING OF GRAINS. ACCORDING TO TOEPFER, THE U. S. GOVERNMENT MUST BECOME MORE RESPONSIVE TO THESE AND OTHER PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE QUALITY OF EXPORTED GRAIN. THERE WAS OBVIOUS WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION UNDER THE PRESENT CERTIFYING SYSTEM, HE MAINTAINED.

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3. BECAUSE OF THESE PROBLEMS, MANY TRADERS AND USERS
IN EUROPE WITH WHOM HE IS IN CONTACT INDICATE THAT,
GIVEN A CHOICE, THEY WOULD NOW PREFER TO PROCURE
GRAINS AND OILSEEDS FROM OTHER THAN U. S. SOURCES.
HILLENBRAND

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